

ATTACHMENT 2

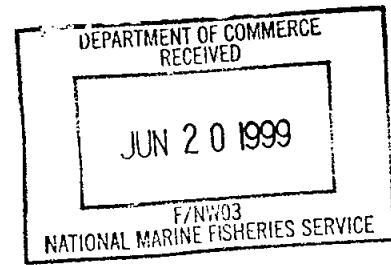
June 17, 1999 letter from Randall Smith, EPA, to Rick Applegate, NMFS.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

June 17, 1999

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-135



Rick Applegate
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97232-2737

Dear Mr. Applegate:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10, submitted our Biological Assessment (BA) of our proposed approval of the 1996 revisions to the state of Oregon's water quality standards to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on September 15, 1998. This letter serves to amend the BA to modify our proposed action.

EPA is modifying our proposed action to include the following conservation measures. First, EPA will establish two workgroups (technical and policy), which will be responsible for developing and recommending to EPA a more ecologically relevant temperature criteria protective of all salmonid life history stages. This project is known as the Regional Temperature Criteria Development Project. The goal is to develop temperature criteria that meet the biological requirements of listed aquatic species for survival and recovery. EPA will lead this process, which is intended to include Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Tribes, the USFWS, and the NMFS. The workgroups will take approximately two years to develop temperature criteria that EPA will recommend for adoption by the States and Tribes. Please see Enclosure 1, for a full description of the Regional Temperature Criteria Development Project.

Second, EPA will provide a grant to the State of Oregon to assist it in carrying out the state conservation measures. These funds are provided under section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. These conservation measures would assure that the standards are being properly applied to protect threatened and endangered salmonids, and that high quality waters are protected and maintained at a high quality. Please see Enclosure 2 for the state conservation measures and the letter transmitting them to EPA.

Since EPA prepared the BA, the NMFS has proposed listing the Southwestern Washington/Columbia River coastal cutthroat trout. We will be amending the BA to include this species. An assessment of our action on this proposed species will be submitted to NMFS by June 21, 1999. Additionally, we inadvertently left out of the September 15, 1998, BA determinations for several candidate species for some of the standards. We will be submitting the determinations that were left out by June 21, 1999 as well.

Please call me should you have questions or want to discuss this letter. You may contact me at 206/553-1261, or Dru Keenan, Oregon Water Quality Standards Coordinator, at (206) 553-1219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Smith".

Randall F. Smith, Director
Office of Water

Enclosures: 1. Regional Temperature Criteria Development Project
2. ODEQ Letter transmitting State Conservation Measures.

cc: Russ Peterson, USFWS
Michael Llewelyn, ODEQ